ASPECTS OF BRITAIN

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NOTE

The term 'Britain' is used informally in the *Survey of Current Affairs* to mean the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. 'Great Britain' comprises England, Wales and Scotland.

Government and Administration

Opening of Parliament

The first session of Britain's fifty-first Parliament was officially opened on 6 May. The Queen's speech, outlining the Government's policies for the coming session, was delivered in the House of Lords to members of both Houses.[1]

The text of the speech is as follows:

International Affairs

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

I look forward with great pleasure to receiving the State Visits of His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei and Her Majesty the Raja Isteri in November, and His Excellency the President of the Portuguese Republic and Senhora Soares in 1993.

I look forward to my forthcoming visit to the European Parliament and the Council of Europe at Strasbourg, and to my visits to Malta later this month, France and Canada in June and Germany in October.

My Government attach the highest importance to national security. They will continue to give full support to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and will work with our allies to adapt it to changing risks. They will aim to develop the Western European Union as a means of strengthening the European pillar of the Alliance and the defence component of the European Union. The United Kingdom's armed forces are being restructured to reflect these changes. Britain's minimum nuclear deterrent will be maintained.

My Government will work for a comprehensive and verifiable ban on chemical weapons, to prevent the proliferation of biological weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and to encourage greater international responsibility in conventional arms transfers. They will help the Russian Federation in the task of dismantling surplus nuclear weapons.

My Government will work to strengthen the United Nations. They will require full Iraqi compliance with Security Council resolutions. They will work for a peaceful settlement in Yugoslavia. They will support moves to bring lasting peace to the Middle East.

They will lay before Parliament the Treaty of Maastricht and introduce a Bill to implement it.

My Government look forward to welcoming the European Council at our palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh towards the end of the United Kingdom's Presidency of the Community in December. During the Presidency, my Government will attach particular priority to enlargement of the Community and completion of the single market. They will promote sound finance and budgetary discipline. With our Community partners they will continue to strive for a successful conclusion to the GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade] *trade negotiations, and to press for changes in the Common Agricultural Policy.*

My Government will encourage Community agreements with Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and will support democratic reform there.

They will maintain the fight against terrorism in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

They will energetically pursue policies to combat the trafficking and misuse of drugs.

My Government will play an active part in the Commonwealth. They will support efforts to build a democratic society in South Africa.

My Government will maintain a substantial aid programme to reduce poverty in developing coun-

[1] *Hansard* (HL), Vol 537, No 4, cols 7-9.

tries. Its objectives will include promoting good government, sensible economic policies and respect for human rights. They will continue to press creditor countries for a further reduction in the official debt of the poorest countries.

The United Kingdom will work for a successful outcome to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

My Government will continue to administer Hong Kong justly and efficiently, in the interests of its people, and to co-operate with China on the basis of the Sino-British Joint Declaration to promote the political and economic development of the territory.

Domestic Affairs

Members of the House of Commons

Estimates for the public service will be laid before you.

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

My Government will pursue, within the framework of the exchange rate mechanism, firm financial policies designed to achieve price stability and maintain the conditions necessary for sustained growth. They will set policy in the medium term to ensure that the United Kingdom meets the convergence criteria set out in the Maastricht Treaty. They will reduce the share of national income taken by the public sector and balance the budget over the medium term, reducing taxes when it is prudent to do so. They will promote market mechanisms and incentives and improve the working of the economy. To help business, legislation will be introduced to amend the non-domestic rate transitional arrangements.

A Bill will be introduced to improve further the law on industrial relations.

My Government will pursue vigorously their programme of privatisation. Legislation will be introduced to return British Coal to the private sector.

My Government are committed to increasing the role of the railways in meeting the country's transport needs. Legislation will be introduced to enable the private sector to operate rail services.

My Government will give priority to improving public services through the Citizen's Charter which will be at the centre of decision-making. Steps will be taken to apply Charter principles throughout the public service.

My Government will continue to work to raise standards at all levels of education, to promote vocational training for young people and adults, and to improve teacher training. A Bill will be introduced to extend choice and diversity in education.

Action will be taken to combat crime and promote law and order.

A Bill will be presented to enable applications for asylum in the United Kingdom to be determined quickly and effectively.

Legislation will be presented to facilitate the work of the Parliamentary Boundary Commissions.

My Government will work to enhance the quality of life provided by our nation's cultural and sporting heritage. A Bill will be introduced to establish a national lottery to raise money for good causes.

My Government will continue to improve the quality of the National Health Service and community care and their responsiveness to patients' needs.

My Government will work both at home and abroad to protect the environment. They will ensure that the environment remains a key issue in all policy-making and will continue to publish annual reports.

Measures will be introduced to enhance the rights of local authority tenants in England and Wales and in Scotland, to establish an urban regeneration agency, and to enable leaseholders either to acquire the freehold or to extend the lease.

My Government will continue to improve and modernise the social security system with sustained emphasis on those groups with the greatest need. Legislation will be introduced to maintain an additional rebate for holders of personal pensions aged 30 or over.

Legislation will be introduced to promote improvements in agricultural marketing.

A Bill will be presented to promote the Welsh language.

For Scotland, legislation will be introduced to amend the laws relating to bankruptcy and early release of prisoners.

In Northern Ireland, my Government will continue their efforts to eliminate terrorism through resolute enforcement of the law, combined with progressive economic, social and political policies. They will promote the re-establishment of stable institutions of government, within a framework of positive relations with the Republic of Ireland.

Other measures will be laid before you.

Ministerial Appointments

Further ministerial appointments in the new Government have been announced. Further changes in departmental responsibilities have also been announced.

The new Cabinet appointments were listed in last month's *Survey of Current Affairs* – see pp 92-4. The latest appointments, with previous ministerial posts in brackets, are given below.[1]

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Minister of State
Mr David Curry, MP (formerly Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food)

Parliamentary Secretaries
The Earl Howe (formerly a Lord in Waiting, a Government Whip in the House of Lords)

The Hon Nicholas Soames, MP

Ministry of Defence
Minister of State
Mr Jonathan Aitken, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
The Viscount Cranborne

Department for Education
Minister of State
The Baroness Blatch, CBE (formerly Minister of State at the Department of the Environment)

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State
Mr Eric Forth, MP (formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Employment)

Mr Nigel Forman, MP

Department of Employment
Minister of State
Mr Michael Forsyth, MP (formerly Minister of State at the Scottish Office)

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Mr Patrick McLoughlin, MP (formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Transport)

Department of the Environment
Ministers of State
Mr David Maclean, MP (formerly Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food)

Mr John Redwood, MP (formerly Minister of State at the Department of Trade and Industry)

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State
The Lord Strathclyde (formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Scottish Office)

Mr Robin Squire, MP

Foreign & Commonwealth Office
Minister of State
Rt Hon Alastair Goodlad, MP (formerly Treasurer of the Household – Deputy Chief Whip)

Department of Health
Minister of State
Dr Brian Mawhinney, MP (formerly Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office)

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State
The Baroness Cumberlege, CBE

Mr Timothy Yeo, MP (formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment)

The Hon Thomas Sackville, MP (formerly a Lord Commissioner – a Whip)

Home Office
Ministers of State
Mr Peter Lloyd, MP (formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office)

Mr Michael Jack, MP (formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Social Security)

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Mr Charles Wardle, MP

[1] A full list of government ministers will appear in next month's *Survey of Current Affairs*.

Law Officers' Department
Attorney General
Rt Hon Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, MP (formerly Solicitor General)

Solicitor General
Mr Derek Spencer, QC, MP[1]

Lord Advocate's Department
Lord Advocate
Rt Hon Alan Rodger, QC[2]

Solicitor General for Scotland
Mr Thomas Dawson, QC

Lord Chancellor's Department
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Mr John Taylor, MP (formerly Vice-Chamberlain of the Household – a senior Whip)

Department of National Heritage
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Mr Robert Key, MP (formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of the Environment)

Northern Ireland Office
Ministers of State
Mr Robert Atkins, MP (formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Education and Science and Minister of Sport)

Mr Michael Mates, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
The Earl of Arran (formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence)

Office of the Minister for the Civil Service (Office of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster)
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Mr Robert Jackson, MP (formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Employment)

[1]A knighthood is to be conferred on Mr Spencer.
[2]A life peerage is to be conferred on Mr Rodger.

Scottish Office
Minister of State
Rt Hon The Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC (formerly Lord Advocate)

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Sir Hector Monro, JP, DL, MP

Department of Social Security
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Mr Alistair Burt, MP

Department of Trade and Industry
Ministers of State
Rt Hon Timothy Eggar, MP (formerly Minister of State, Department of Education and Science)

Mr Richard Needham, MP (formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office)

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State
Mr Neil Hamilton, MP (formerly an Assistant Whip)

The Baroness Denton, CBE (formerly a Baroness in Waiting – a Government Whip in the House of Lords)

Department of Transport
Minister of State
Rt Hon The Earl of Caithness (formerly a Minister of State at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office)

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State
Mr Kenneth Carlisle, MP (formerly a Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence)

Mr Steven Norris, MP

HM Treasury
Financial Secretary
Mr Steven Dorrell, MP (formerly a Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Health)

Paymaster General
Rt Hon Sir John Cope, MP

Economic Secretary
Mr Anthony Nelson, MP

Welsh Office
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Mr Gwilym Jones, MP

Government Whips in the House of Commons

Treasurer of Her Majesty's Household (Deputy Chief Whip)

Mr David Heathcoat-Amory, MP (formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy)

Vice-Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household (Senior Whip)

Mr Sydney Chapman, MP (formerly a Lord Commissioner – a Whip)

Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury (Whips)

Mr Timothy Wood, MP (formerly an Assistant Whip)

Mr Timothy Boswell, MP (formerly an Assistant Whip)

Assistant Whips

Mr Andrew Mackay, MP

Mr Robert Hughes, MP

Mr James Arbuthnot, MP

Government Whips in the House of Lords

Baroness in Waiting (Whip)

Rt Hon The Baroness Trumpington (formerly Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food)

Lords in Waiting (Whips)

The Viscount St Davids

The Viscount Goschen

Ministerial Resignations

The following ministers have tendered their resignations; their former posts are given in brackets:

Rt Hon Tim Renton, MP (Minister of State, Privy Council Office – Minister for the Arts)

The Lord Brabazon of Tara (Minister of State, Department of Transport)

Rt Hon The Lord Belstead (Paymaster General)

The Lord Cavendish of Furness (Lord in Waiting – a Government Whip in the House of Lords)

The Baroness Hooper (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health)

The Lord Reay (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Trade and Industry)

Rt Hon Angela Rumbold, CBE, MP (Minister of State, Home Office)

Mr Alan Howarth, CBE, MP (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Education and Science)

Mrs Angela Rumbold leaves the Government to become Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party and is to be appointed a Dame Commander of the British Empire.

At the general election (see p 87) the following members of the Government were not re-elected; their former positions are given in brackets:

Rt Hon Lynda Chalker (Mrs Chalker has been granted a peerage as Baroness Chalker of Wallasey and retains her post as Minister for Overseas Development in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office)

Rt Hon Christopher Patten (formerly Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; Mr Patten's appointment as Governor of Hong Kong has been announced – see p 130)

The Hon Colin Moynihan (formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Energy)

Mr Nicholas Bennett (formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Welsh Office)

The Hon Francis Maude (formerly Financial Secretary to the Treasury)

Mr John Maples (formerly Economic Secretary to the Treasury)

Mr Michael Fallon (formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Education and Science)

Mr Christopher Chope, OBE (formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Transport)

Mr David Trippier, RD, JP (formerly Minister of State at the Department of the Environment)

The Rt Hon Alan Clark (formerly Minister of State at the Ministry of Defence) did not stand for re-election.

New Departmental Responsibilities

The following new departmental responsibilities have been announced. Details of other changes in departmental responsibilities were given in last month's *Survey of Current Affairs* (see p 94).

Office of Science and Technology

The new Office of Science and Technology incorporates the former Science Branch of the Department of Education and Science and the Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser, Cabinet Office. The new Office will be part of the Office of the Minister for the Civil Service and will be the responsibility of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, acting on behalf of the Prime Minister. As a result of these changes the Department of Education and Science will become the Department for Education.

Women's Issues

Responsibility for co-ordinating government policy on issues of particular concern to women and for sex-equality policy will be transferred to the Department of Employment from the Home Office. Responsibility for the Women's National Commission will be transferred from the Office of the Minister for the Civil Service to the Department of Employment.

Financial Services

Responsibility for overseeing financial services will be transferred from the Department of Trade and Industry to the Treasury.

Inner Cities

Responsibility for the Inner City Task Forces will be transferred from the Department of Trade and Industry to the Department of the Environment.

Small Businesses

Responsibility for small businesses will be transferred from the Department of Employment to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Human Rights in Northern Ireland

The Government has reaffirmed its commitment to creating equality of opportunity and equity of treatment for all sections of the community in Northern Ireland.

Details were given in the Government's response to the second report from the Northern Ireland Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights, which was published in June 1990.[1] The first report which dealt with fair employment played an important part in formulating the Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act 1989.[2] The Commission was set up in 1973 to advise the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on the effectiveness of the law in preventing discrimination on grounds of religious belief or political opinion.

The Government's response was set out by the former Northern Ireland Secretary, Mr Peter Brooke, in a letter to the Chairman of the Commission, Sir Oliver Napier, on 10 March. He stressed that 'the Government is at one with the Commission in their desire both to eliminate or prevent inequitable treatment, and to safeguard human rights in Northern Ireland as effectively as possible. The Government also regards the Report as one of a particularly high quality, well documented and presented, and worthy of detailed study not only by those actively involved in the continuing debate on human rights issues in Northern Ireland, but also by all those seriously engaged in the search for a just and lasting settlement of the problems of the Province.'

Mr Brooke said that successive administrations had done much to enhance the protection given to human rights in Northern Ireland by a policy of targeting legislation at areas where discrimination had been shown to occur. This policy was fully in line with the British Government's obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, the

[1] *Religious and Political Discrimination and Equality of Opportunity in Northern Ireland.* Second Report. Cm 1107. HMSO, £11·55. ISBN 0 10 111072 3.

[2] *Religious and Political Discrimination and Equality of Opportunity in Northern Ireland. Report on Fair Employment.* Cm 237. HMSO, £10·70. ISBN 0 10 102372 3.

United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Targeting Social Need

Mr Brooke pointed out that 'Targeting Social Need' was a major part of the Government's efforts to create equality of opportunity. It had been adopted as a third public spending priority alongside law and order and strengthening the economy. The Government accepted that departments had to monitor more closely the impact of their policies and programmes on the two sections of the community and to develop remedial action plans to address unfair differentials and promote equal opportunities.

Race Relations

The Government will issue a consultative paper for public comment on the scope for future legislation on racial discrimination in Northern Ireland and the action that might be taken by government departments to promote equity of treatment for ethnic groups. It accepts the principle that protection should be given to those who suffer from discrimination on the grounds of race.

Goods and Services

Mr Brooke said that the Government was opposed to unfair discrimination in the provision of goods and services in the private sector on the grounds of religious belief or political opinion. The consultative paper on racial discrimination would also consider this issue.

The Ombudsman

Noting that the Northern Ireland Ombudsman had played an important role in protecting human rights in the province, the Government said that there was a review underway to ensure that the Ombudsman reflected contemporary needs regarding public administration. The review is also considering the range of organisations covered by the Ombudsman's remit.

The Two Traditions

The Government's response points out that it has initiated many measures to encourage equality of treatment and esteem for both traditions in Northern Ireland. Examples include:

– the incorporation of cultural heritage and education for mutual understanding as compulsory themes in the school curriculum for grant-aided schools; and

– a cultural traditions programme designed to encourage greater mutual respect and understanding of the two traditions.

Shorter Notes

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Miss Betty Boothroyd, Labour MP for West Bromwich (West) and Second Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means and a deputy Speaker in the last Parliament, has been elected Speaker of the House of Commons following the retirement of Mr Bernard Weatherill at the general election.

The Speaker is normally elected by Members of the House at the beginning of each Parliament. In the election of the Speaker on 27 April Miss Boothroyd received 372 votes. The other candidate, the Rt Hon Peter Brooke, MP, the former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, received 238 votes.

The Government and the Opposition usually agree on a candidate, who is elected unanimously. The election on 27 April was only the third contested election this century.

If the Speaker is returned to Parliament in a general election, he or she is normally re-elected as Speaker. The Speaker stands for re-election in his or her parliamentary constituency as the Speaker seeking re-election, and not as a political party candidate. The Chairman of Ways and Means and his or her two deputies may all act as deputy Speaker; these officers are elected by the House of

Commons and, like the Speaker, they neither speak nor vote in the House other than in their official capacity. (In the event of a tied vote the Speaker, or one of the deputy Speakers, casts his or her vote in such a way as to give the House another chance to decide the question.)[1]

Source: *Hansard*, Vol 207, No 1, cols 2-20.

CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE

In a speech on 28 April the newly appointed Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Mrs Barbara Mills, said that during her tenure she would strive for an open and accountable Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

The CPS was established in 1986 (see p 312, 1986) as an independent government department headed by the DPP. It has over 6,000 members of staff in England and Wales, including 2,000 lawyers, and handles 1·6 million criminal cases each year.

Mrs Mills said: 'I, and my colleagues in the criminal justice system, have an enormous responsibility, entrusted to us by the public, to make sure we provide a quality service which reaches the highest standards.' The performance of the CPS had to be consistent applying the same standards, tests and professionalism nationally, as demanded by the Code for Crown Prosecutors.[2]

She said that the CPS, as a public sector organisation, had to be accountable for its decisions and actions and be prepared to be scrutinised and criticised, and to change when necessary. Emphasising that the CPS must maintain its independence from pressure, she added that it must take into account the conflicting interests of all the different groups involved in the criminal justice system, whether victims, witnesses or defendants.

Concluding, Mrs Mills said: 'We must, and will, demonstrate independence, even-handedness, integrity and fairness, and we will combine these qualities with the efficiency and effectiveness which the public have the right to expect.'

Source: Crown Prosecution Service news release, 28.4.92.

NORTHERN IRELAND POLITICAL TALKS

The four constitutional parties in Northern Ireland have agreed to resume political talks.

Giving details at a press conference on 27 April, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Sir Patrick Mayhew, said that the British and Irish governments had agreed to a three-month break in meetings of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Conference in order to allow the talks to continue. This period will continue up to the week beginning 27 July.

Commenting on this development, Sir Patrick said that he had had very satisfactory talks with each of the party leaders, who were agreed that there was a desire throughout the province that the politicians get together to produce some kind of agreed accommodation.

The British Government wanted to see progress towards an accommodation acceptable to all parties that would return greater responsibility for their own affairs to the people of Northern Ireland. Sir Patrick added: 'It is an absurdity and an affront to the intelligence of Northern Ireland that even trivial matters should fall for decision by Westminster ministers. . . . I see it as part of my task to help the people of Northern Ireland to release the political talents which exist there in abundant measure and to engage it in the business of government, step-by-step.'

Asked about the form of devolution

[1] For further details, see *Parliament*. Aspects of Britain: HMSO, £6. ISBN 0 11 701631 4.

[2] Under the Code, a prosecution should not be started or continued unless the Prosecutor is satisfied that there is admissible, substantial and reliable evidence that a criminal offence has been committed. Once the Prosecutor is satisfied that the evidence can justify proceedings, he or she must also consider whether the public interest requires proceedings to take place.

favoured by the British Government, Sir Patrick said that there was no blueprint but a requirement that an agreement had to be fair to both sides of the community.

On 27 April the British and Irish governments issued a statement expressing the strong hope that 'this further opportunity for talks will achieve a new beginning for relationships within Northern Ireland, within the island of Ireland and between the peoples of these islands'.

Source: Press conference given by the Northern Ireland Secretary, 27.4.92.

External Affairs and Defence

Foreign Policy

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, outlined the new Government's views on major aspects of British foreign policy and on developments in Northern Ireland in a speech on 29 April.

Mr Hurd said that efforts to tackle international problems had become overwhelmingly collective. In an interdependent world, international organisations were increasingly important and were being reshaped for new purposes. 'Britain now works in company and so does everybody else, and this is the first lesson of the end of the Cold War.'

Northern Ireland

Commenting on the situation in Northern Ireland, Mr Hurd emphasised that the province was an integral part of Britain. It would not cease to be so without the consent of the majority of its people and they had reaffirmed their wish to remain in the United Kingdom in the recent general election (see p 87). He added: 'Within Northern Ireland, there is massive support for the constitutional process [see p 128], and the parties committed to it are engaged in efforts to find solutions by constitutional means.'

Re-emphasising the Government's opposition to terrorism, he said: 'We do not regard the violence and suffering caused by terrorism from Northern Ireland – whether in the province itself, in other parts of this Kingdom, or on the continent of Europe – as routine or acceptable.' He also condemned the ease with which terrorists in the past had been able to obtain money and arms from overseas.

Hong Kong

Mr Hurd said that Britain had a responsibility to run Hong Kong justly and efficiently up to 1 July 1997. 'We have to ensure, as far as we can, that Hong Kong's way of life, its economic success are preserved after China resumes sovereignty on the basis set out in the Joint Declaration between Britain and China' (see pp 368-74, 1984).

Commenting on the exacting role of the Governor of Hong Kong, Mr Hurd welcomed the appointment to the post from July of Mr Chris Patten, previously a government minister.

Mr Hurd acknowledged that it was not always easy for Britain to reconcile standing up for Hong Kong's interests in dealing with the People's Republic of China with trying to ensure a smooth transition. However, co-operation with China over the territory had improved, and the people of Hong Kong and south China were coming closer together in economic terms.

He added: 'What we have to do is bring the economic realities to bear on the political divergencies. It is not just Hong Kong, it is China which benefits ever more clearly from the capitalist system in Hong Kong and the freedoms which are an indispensable part of that system.'

European Community

Mr Hurd considered that the prosperity of Europe depended upon the European Community, adding that the means to that prosperity was trade. Britain had always been a trading nation and in 1991 had exported over 18 per cent of its GDP (gross domestic product). Some 57 per cent of exports had gone to other members of the Community.

Mr Hurd said that the completion of all the essential elements of the single European market would be a priority during the British presidency of the Community in the second half of the year (see p 31). Britain wanted the benefits of the single market to be available to all Europeans, and he welcomed the agreement between member states of the Community and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA – see pp 60-2) creating a European Economic Area.[1]

Mr Hurd also welcomed the decision of a number of European states to apply for full membership of the Community. He envisaged that the first phase of this new enlargement would see the accession of the interested members of EFTA.[2]

Maastricht Treaty on European Union

Mr Hurd said that the British Parliament would be asked to approve the Maastricht Treaty, which had been agreed by the European Council in December 1991 (see pp 3-12) and signed in February (see p 31).

He explained that member states had set a course for economic and monetary union (EMU) by the end of the decade. This rested, at the insistence of Britain and Germany, on exacting conditions of economic convergence, while the British Parliament retained the right to decide at the appropriate time whether or not to join the final stage of EMU.

Reiterating the Government's opposition to the Community's 'minute interference' in social affairs, he said: 'A key to the Community's success is its diversity. One rule on all matters will not be always helpful for all twelve.'

Mr Hurd believed that the Treaty provided a sound basis for the working of the Community up to 1996 and that it could accommodate the accession during that period of three or four new member states. He rejected further negotiation on the institutions of the Community before 1996, adding that 'the tide of reality' had turned against the concept of administrative centralism.

Envisaging a wider, more decentralised Europe, based on the principle of subsidiarity (see p 167, 1990), Mr Hurd said: 'The European Community should now concentrate on doing, more effectively, the things which Europe has to do together. I would include large elements of foreign policy in that: foreign trade certainly; many aspects of the environment.' He continued: 'On those things we must work together more effectively as Europeans but we should not suppose that the success of Europe depends exclusively on the volume – the number – of decisions taken at the European level.'

European Security

Mr Hurd welcomed the ending of the Cold War and the dissolution of the Soviet Union as changes for the better. The discrediting of Communism was a 'huge gain for civilisation, for Europe, for the world', but it brought with it new uncertainties. Citing events in Yugoslavia as an example (see pp 132-3), he warned of the dangers of violent nationalism.

Mr Hurd said that full access to Community markets for the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union was more important to their future than economic aid. To this end, the Community had concluded agreements with Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland (see p 32). Britain had also taken the lead in helping Russia, Ukraine and the other nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (see pp 12-13) to join the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank (see pp 133-4).

Institutions

Citing the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (see pp 14-15), the Western European Union (see pp 9-10) and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE – see pp 360-2, 1991), Mr Hurd said: 'One of our problems is that we have a bewildering range of institutions which were designed originally for quite other purposes and now have to be mobilised to help the East.'

He continued: 'These institutions. . . are still, to some extent, jostling together, unclear about who exactly can best do what. Some untidiness, some overlap, are inevitable. . . but a clearer view is now needed and that is why in the summits, in the ministerial meetings this summer, we shall continue,

[1] The formal signature of the agreement took place in Oporto, Portugal, on 2 May.

[2] Austria, Sweden and Finland, among the seven EFTA nations, have so far applied to join the Community.

from experience, the task of re-shaping the work of these institutions for the New World.'

United States

Mr Hurd emphasised that the United States was willing to maintain its military presence in Europe and that all European states supported the retention of US forces. What was at issue, he explained, was how a stronger Western Europe and the United States could work together to build peace and security in the whole of Europe.

Peacekeeping

Mr Hurd said that the question of the legitimacy of collective European intervention in the affairs of particular European states in order to prevent bloodshed and anarchy needed to be addressed. Britain was working for agreement among all the 52 states of the CSCE on measures which could anticipate problems which could otherwise lead to armed conflict and on the management of crises as they occurred.

Events in Former Yugoslavia

Having condemned the fighting in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Britain and other members of the European Community agreed on 11 May to withdraw their ambassadors from Yugoslavia.

Medical support from Britain's armed forces have joined the United Nations peacekeeping force in Croatia.

Background

The independent republics of Croatia and Slovenia, which were part of Yugoslavia, were recognised by Britain and the other European Community (EC) states in January following acceptance of certain conditions. These included the guarantee of support for the efforts of the United Nations (UN) and the continuation of the EC peace conference on Yugoslavia, as well as guarantees that the two republics had no territorial claims on a neighbouring state (see pp 13-14).

The UN protection force of some 13,300 troops and over 1,000 police and civilians is being deployed in Croatia to monitor a ceasefire agreement between Serbia and Croatia and follows a unanimous resolution (743) adopted by the United Nations Security Council in February (see p 62).

Bosnia-Hercegovina

Following the March referendum in Bosnia-Hercegovina, which voted in favour of an independent and autonomous republic, Britain and the other EC countries decided on 6 April to recognise the republic of Bosnia. On 27 April the republics of Serbia and Montenegro announced the creation of a Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Shortly after the referendum, fighting began in Bosnia between Serbs (including the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav National Army [JNA] based in Bosnia) and Muslims and Croats (who comprise about 40 and 18 per cent respectively of the republic's population).

The fighting has continued despite international efforts to negotiate a lasting settlement.

EC Statements

Concerned about the fighting in Bosnia, the European Community issued a statement on 11 April, reaffirming that it would 'strongly uphold the principle of the territorial integrity' of Bosnia-Hercegovina as 'the unquestionable foundation of any constitutional order'. The statement also made it clear that 'violations of this principle will not be tolerated and will certainly affect the future relations of those responsible with the Community'. The Community urged all military and paramilitary forces operating in Bosnia 'to refrain from any actions which violate the sovereignty of the republic or undermine the ongoing peace process'. It asked, in particular, the Serbian and Croatian governments 'to exercise all their undoubted influence to end the interference in the affairs of an independent republic and to condemn publicly and unreservedly the use of force in Bosnia and Hercegovina'.

In another statement on 16 April the Community condemned the violence spreading in Bosnia 'at the hands of various armed elements with the support of regular forces, and in particular of the JNA'. While all sides

had to refrain from the sending of military reinforcements into the republic, the Community urged Serbia in particular to do all in its power to prevent violent activities by Serbian irregulars.

British Views

In an interview on 15 April the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, pointed out that, while efforts were being made through the EC peace conference and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) to bring about a ceasefire and the beginnings of a political solution, the answer lay 'with those concerned . . . in Bosnia itself and in Bosnia's neighbours. If they persist in fighting, then that fighting cannot actually be stopped from outside. What we have to do is to point out that there is . . . a way of a peaceful negotiation . . . in which these communities can actually live side by side in peace with help and recognition from outside.' It was unacceptable for the Yugoslav army or Serbian or Croatian irregulars to intervene in Bosnia, which had been recognised as a country.

After a meeting of the EC Troika[1] in Prague on 5 May Mr Hurd said that Serbia could not expect to be accepted as part of the community of nations unless it accepted, in turn, the sovereignty of other republics of former Yugoslavia and the peace plan drawn up by the EC conference on Yugoslavia under Lord Carrington (see p 338, 1991). Although the evidence showed that the blame for the fighting in Bosnia was shared, Serbia and the JNA carried the greater part of the responsibility. Most European and international pressure, therefore, needed to be built up against Serbia, which could not exist indefinitely in growing isolation.

Withdrawal of EC Ambassadors

In response to the continued fighting, EC member states agreed on 11 May to withdraw their ambassadors from Yugoslavia for consultations, and to support the United States proposal that Yugoslavia be suspended from the CSCE process.

[1] The EC Troika comprises the last, current and next presidents of the European Council. Britain will assume the six-month presidency on 1 July.

Mr Hurd explained that the Community needed 'to increase pressure on all concerned but particularly on the Serbs and the JNA to withdraw or dismantle the JNA in Bosnia'.

Support to Peacekeeping Force

Medical personnel from Britain's armed forces will join the UN peacekeeping force in Croatia. Announcing the details on 15 April, the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, said that the 260-strong British unit would be drawn from 24 Field Ambulance, supported by troops from a range of other units. They would be deployed in four detachments, one in each of the UN sectors in Croatia, with headquarters based in the republic's capital, Zagreb. Their main task will be to provide casualty evacuation by wheeled ambulance or helicopter and to supplement the medical support of the UN battalions.

Western Aid to Russia

Britain welcomed Russia and other states of the former Soviet Union to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank institutions at a meeting in Washington on 27 April.

Earlier, on 1 April, the United States announced its support for Western financial aid of some $24,000 million to Russia and other republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Group of Seven Meeting

The meeting in Washington was held between the finance ministers of the seven major industrialised countries (Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States).

In a statement on 26 April the Group of Seven (G7) welcomed the states of the former Soviet Union into the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, and stressed that the new states should adopt policies to stabilise and reform their economies on the basis of market principles. They also

encouraged them 'to create appropriate legal frameworks for market economies . . . [and] to move forward rapidly to develop economic adjustment programs that can be supported by the international institutions'.

Following a meeting with Russian representatives also on 26 April, the G7 states emphasised that there was 'no productive alternative to establishing a market economy in Russia through the adoption of strong and comprehensive macroeconomic and structural reforms'. The finance ministers urged Russia and the IMF to complete negotiations at an early date on a comprehensive stabilisation and reform programme that provided for:

– a reduction of Russia's budget deficit to stabilise the economy and reduce the role of government;

– a curbing of monetary growth to bring inflation under control and stop the extension of credit to unviable enterprises;

– the establishment of the legal framework and contractual rights necessary to permit the development of a market economy, including privatisation and private ownership;

– a reform of agriculture and energy to promote increased production and help earn foreign exchange;

– a foreign exchange mobilisation system that enables the other independent states of the former Soviet Union to meet their international payments; and

– a unified and market-determined exchange rate set at a realistic level.

The G7 states also expressed their commitment to support Russia's reform efforts by providing the recently announced $24,000 million multilateral financial assistance package (see below) within the context of an agreed IMF programme.

United States Support

In a press briefing on 1 April the US President, Mr George Bush, announced that the United States would join in a substantial financial package in support of Russia's reforms. The US Government was working to develop with the Group of Seven and the IMF the following:

– a $6,000 million currency stabilisation fund to help maintain confidence in the Russian rouble; and

– about $18,000 million to assist efforts to stabilise and restructure the Russian economy during 1992.

British View

Welcoming the US President's announcement, the Prime Minister, Mr John Major, said on 1 April that the peace and stability of Russia and the other republics of the former Soviet Union 'are crucial to the stability of the whole of Europe' (see pp 12-13 and 35-6). Britain, he continued, had strongly supported assistance for Russian economic reform through the international financial institutions, as well as proposing early membership of the IMF. The G7 countries and the European Community had already pledged some £20,000 million of help to Russia and the other republics (see pp 305-10, 1991). Britain had also advocated a rouble stabilisation fund for Russia.

Shorter Notes

EMERGENCY AID TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

British emergency aid to drought-affected countries in Southern Africa worth £30 million was announced by the Minister for Overseas Development, Baroness Chalker, at a special meeting of aid ministers in March and April. In addition, Britain and European Community countries agreed in May to give 680,000 tonnes of food aid to the region; the British contribution will be worth £23·5 million. The meeting was held at Britain's instigation.

Britain's new bilateral emergency aid will include:

– £17·5 million for Zambia and Zimbabwe in the form of balance-of-payments aid to ease the cost of importing essential foods;

– £3·9 million for the shipment of food, mainly for Mozambique; and

– £2·5 million for other drought-affected countries in Southern Africa, including

Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Namibia, for the activities of British non-governmental organisations and for technical assistance where needed.

Since the beginning of 1989 Britain has committed over £230 million, including its share of European Community help, in emergency assistance to alleviate famine in Africa. From September 1990 some £107 million (£30 million via the European Community, 185,000 tonnes of bilateral food aid, and £7 million of seeds, tools, transport and supplementary food) was provided by Britain to the countries in the Horn of Africa.

Sources: Overseas Development Administration news releases, 4.3.92 and 29.4.92.

AID TO INDIA

British aid of £25 million towards a forestry project in India was announced by the Minister for Overseas Development, Baroness Chalker, on 5 May.

The aid, to be provided over six years, will go towards helping to support very rare deciduous tropical forest and evergreens in the Western Ghats mountains of Karnataka. The project, initially in the northern part of Karnataka, will support work on forestry operations and on developing ways of involving local people in the planning and management of the forests there. The Karnataka forest department will also co-operate with local and international non-governmental organisations on the project.

India is the largest recipient of British bilateral aid, receiving about £100 million a year (see pp 365-6, 1991); Britain's multilateral aid to India is a further £70 million a year.

Source: Overseas Development Administration news release, 5.5.92.

Economic and Scientific Affairs

Labour Force Survey

There was a fall in employment and a rise in unemployment in the year to spring 1991, according to the 1991 Labour Force Survey. However, over the period 1984 to 1991 there were significant increases in employment and reductions in unemployment.

The results of the 1991 Labour Force Survey were given in an article in the April issue of the *Employment Gazette*.[1] The Survey estimates for Great Britain are based on interviews with members of about 60,000 private households held during March, April and May 1991 – that is, about one in every 350. The survey was carried out for the Department of Employment by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. About 5,000 households were sampled in Northern Ireland, and figures have been brought together for Britain. However, most of the tables in the *Employment Gazette* article refer to Great Britain, and the information below is taken from these tables and the accompanying commentary. Comparisons are made with spring 1990 and spring 1984.

Economic Activity

The number of people economically active (those aged 16 and over who are in work or available for it) and the economic activity rate have both increased in recent years, although there was a small overall decline in 1991, when the economic activity rate was 64 per cent. In spring 1991, 75 per cent of men and 53 per cent of women were economically active. The activity rate is higher for married women (59 per cent) than for non-married women (44 per cent), partly because of the different age distribution of married and non-married women in the population.

Employment

Some 25·6 million people were in employment in spring 1991, 2 per cent fewer than in 1990, but 9·5 per cent more than in 1984 (see Table 1). Between 1984 and 1991 the number of employees and of the self-employed rose by 7 per cent and 27 per cent respectively. In spring 1991, 85 per cent of those in employment were employees – 81 per cent of men and 91 per cent of women. Some 13 per cent were self-employed: 17 per cent of men and 7 per cent of women.

In 1991, 76 per cent of employees and the self-employed were working full time, the proportion being much higher for men (93 per cent) than for women (55 per cent). Over two-thirds of non-married women worked full time, compared with fewer than half of married women. Nearly two-thirds of those working part time said that they did so because they did not want a full-time job. Some 1·5 million people, 6 per cent of those employed or self-employed, had a temporary, seasonal, casual or contract job. Nearly 1·1 million people had a second job. Almost one-third of second jobs were in self-employment, compared with just over one in eight of main jobs.

Occupation

In spring 1991 some 14·5 million people were working in non-manual occupations (57·5 per cent) and 10·7 million in manual occupations (42·5 per cent). Just over half of male workers were in manual occupations,

[1] Department of Employment. HMSO, £4·50. ISBN 0 11 729403 9.

Table 1
Employment Status

	1984	1987	1990	1991	Percentage change 1984-91
		(thousands)			
Employees:					
Full-time	16,076	16,050	17,199	16,758	+ 4·2
Part-time	4,378	4,711	5,055	5,117	+16·9
Total	**20,454**	**20,761**	**22,254**	**21,876**	**+ 6·9**
Self-employed:					
Full-time	2,168	2,479	2,915	2,802	+29·2
Part-time	450	519	557	515	+14·4
Total	**2,618**	**2,998**	**3,472**	**3,318**	**+26·7**
On government employment and training programmes	315	488	448	408	+29·5
All persons in employment	**23,387**	**24,247**	**26,175**	**25,601**	**+ 9·5**

Note: Differences between totals and the sums of their component parts are due to rounding.

whereas over two-thirds of women workers were in non-manual occupations. Employment in non-manual occupations grew between 1984 and 1990, followed by a small fall in the year to spring 1991. In manual occupations though, employment has changed more erratically and in 1991 was slightly below the level of 1984.

Table 2 shows the broad occupational groupings. The most significant rise has been in managerial and professional occupations, which increased by 25 per cent between 1984 and 1991 to 8·6 million. Although most of the major sub-groups experienced a decrease between spring 1990 and spring 1991, there were increases of 10 per cent in professional and related supporting management and administration and of 7 per cent in security and protective services.

Employment by Sector

About two-thirds of employees and the self-employed now work in the services sector (see Table 3). Some 78 per cent of non-manual workers are engaged in this sector, compared with 49 per cent of manual workers. However, the services sector is the only one in which less than half employment is manual (32 per cent). In construction, which has the highest ratio of manual to non-manual workers, some

Table 2
Occupational Analysis

	1984	1990	1991	Percentage change 1984-91
		(thousands)		
Managerial and professional	6,868	8,524	8,571	+24·8
Clerical and related	3,546	4,240	3,936	+11·0
Other non-manual occupations	1,779	1,949	2,004	+12·6
Craft and similar occupations	3,993	4,069	3,861	– 3·3
General labourers	302	147	150	–50·2
Other manual occupations	6,584	6,798	6,671	+ 1·3
All occupations – employees and self-employed	**23,072**	**25,726**	**25,194**	**+ 9·2**

Table 3
Employment by Sector Spring 1991

	Non-manual	Manual (thousands)	Total	Percentage of employment
Agriculture etc	262	289	552	2·2
Energy and water	256	303	560	2·2
Manufacturing	2,052	3,411	5,472	21·7
Construction	502	1,349	1,851	7·3
Services	11,327	5,300	16,653	66·1
Total	**14,480**	**10,714**	**25,194**	**100·0**

Note: The sums do not add up to the totals, as the totals include those who did not state in which industry or occupation they worked.

73 per cent are in manual occupations, mostly in craft and related occupations.

Training

As well as participation in government employment and training programmes, the Survey looks at job-related training. In spring 1991 some 3·2 million employees of working age (15 per cent) reported that they had received some job-related training in the four weeks prior to interview. This represented an increase of 73 per cent compared with 1984, although a small fall occurred between 1990 and 1991.

Unemployment

The Survey provides estimates of unemployment on a definition following the guidelines of the International Labour Organisation. The definition, which differs from the monthly claimant count published by the Department of Employment, includes people without paid jobs who said that they were available to start work in the following two weeks and who had sought work in the four weeks prior to interview or were waiting to start a job. On this definition some 2·3 million people were unemployed in spring 1991, a rise of 430,000 since 1990 but a fall of 790,000 since 1984. The unemployment rate in spring 1991 was 8·3 per cent of those aged 16 and over – 9·1 per cent for men and 7·2 per cent for women. In the year ended spring 1991 unemployment among all age groups rose over the year, but was still less than three-quarters of the levels of 1984.

Queen's Awards

The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology for 1992 were announced on 21 April. There were 127 winners of awards for export achievement and 38 for technological achievement. A new award for environmental achievement is to be launched in 1993.

The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology are published annually on 21 April (the Queen's birthday). They are made on the advice of a committee consisting of representatives of industry, commerce, trade unions and government. The awards – first instituted in 1965 and revised in 1975 – can be made to any company operating in Britain, including subsidiaries of foreign firms. Recipients hold their awards for five years and may display the awards emblem on their goods, letterheads and articles for use by employees, as well as in advertising. A current holder of an award may apply and receive a further award for a new outstanding achievement beyond that recognised by the original award.

Winners

The 165 winners of awards in 1992 were chosen from 1,565 applications, the largest number received since 1979. Of this year's awards, 21 for export achievement and 13 for technological achievement were made to firms holding awards granted during the past five years. Unlike previous years, there were no winners in both categories.

The recipients represented a wide spread of industrial and commercial activity and size

of company. Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and all regions of England were represented.

The winners of the awards, and the goods and services for which their awards were won, are listed below. Further information can be obtained from the Queen's Awards Office, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG.

Award for Environmental Achievement

A third award, 'The Queen's Awards for Environmental Achievement', is to be launched alongside the existing awards with the first winners being announced on 21 April 1993. Awards will be made for significant advances in the development of products, technology and processes which offer major benefits in environmental terms and are commercially successful. A third emblem will be introduced to distinguish the new award.

Export Achievement

Export awards are made for a 'substantial and sustained increase in export earnings to a level which is outstanding for the products or services concerned and for the size of the applicant unit's operations'.

Export Achievement Awards

Aegis Group	Devising media strategies, including Walt Disney's media planning and buying in Europe.
Aerocontracts	Aeronautical components.
Ano-Coil	Anodising of continuous aluminium coil.
APV Crepaco Pumps	Pumps for use in the pharmaceutical and food-processing industries in hygiene-sensitive areas.
Associated Timber Services	Timber.
J Barbour & Sons	Country clothing.
Baxter Woodhouse & Taylor	Lightweight air ducting for the aircraft industry.
The Binding Site	Test kits and reagents for medical research and diagnosis.
Bisley Office Equipment	Office furniture.
British Aerospace (Commercial Aircraft)	Commercial aircraft.
British Gas, Online Inspection Centre	Pipeline inspection services.
British Soap Company	'Own label' toilet soaps.
British Steel, General Steels Division	Structural steel.
Brittains (TR)	Transfer printing papers for decorating ceramics, glassware and other products.
BWE	Continuous rotary extrusion and cold pressure welding machinery, together with wire and rod cleaning equipment.
Chase Research	Products used for upgrading personal computers to multi-user systems.
Chloride Industrial Batteries	Electric batteries.
Chubb Safe Equipment	Safes, vaults and fire-resisting cabinets.
City Technology	Gas sensors.
G Clancey	Components and castings for motor vehicles.
Clerical Medical International Insurance Company	Insurance and investment products.
Colvern	Automotive sensors and potentiometers.
Compaq Computer Manufacturing	Personal computers and peripheral equipment.
Compu Inc UK (trading as Computype)	Photographic bar code labels.
Compugraphics International	Photomasks for the semiconductor industry.

Conoco	Petroleum products.
Contour Seats	Reclining seats for civil aircraft.
Coors Ceramics Electronics	Ceramic products for electrical, mechanical and electronics industries.
Data Connection	Development of high-quality complex computer software
C Davidson & Sons	Paperboard and other products made from recovered fibres.
Denge Power Projects	Contracts in high-voltage electrical transmission and distribution projects.
Domino Amjet	High-speed industrial ink-jet printers and related products.
Dowty Aerospace	Aircraft parts.
Dunlop International Technology	Technology-transfer to overseas tyre manufacturers.
Dussek Campbell Engineering Division	Machines for insulating power and telephone cables.
EBI Foods	Food stabilisers, batter coatings for frozen foods and bakery sundries.
EES (Manufacturing)	Precision tools for electronic, automotive and aero-industries.
Euromoney Publications	Magazine publishing, advertising and conference organising.
Europa Scientific	Mass spectrometers and associated products.
Fabdec	Milk tanks and domestic water heaters.
Financial and Corporate Modelling Consultants, Staffware Division	Computer software product that automates office procedures.
Format International	Computer software for the food industries.
Fortnum & Mason	High-quality British foodstuffs.
Fryett's Fabrics	Fabrics for soft furnishings.
Fulleon	Electronic sounders used as alarms.
GB Glass Engineering	Glass-forming equipment and technology.
Gloverall	Duffle coats.
Godel, Escher, Bach	Management consultancy.
GPT Payphone Systems	Payphones, phonecards, management systems and cashless calling systems.
Gracefern (trading as Oakwood Design)	Machinery for producing bank cards, credit cards, telephone cards etc.
Grants of Dalvey	Hand-finished stainless steel gifts and accessories.
Helena Laboratories (UK)	Diagnostic kits for testing blood.
Hewitt-Robins International	Processing equipment for use in quarries, mines, steelworks and foundries.
Hoyland Fox	Garden, golf and fishing umbrella frames.
Huntleigh Technology	Medical equipment.
ICI Katalco	Process equipment for removing impurities from gases and hydrocarbon liquids.
Imatronic	Laser products.
International Additives	Additives for animal feedstuffs.
International Aerospace	Training test pilots and flight test engineers.
International Rectifier (GB)	Power semi-conductor devices.
Intersolar Group	Photovoltaic power generating systems.
Inver House Distillers	Scotch whisky.
JLG Industries (Europe)	Aerial work platforms.

RGC Jenkins & Co	Patent and trademark services.
Kemble & Company	Pianos.
Kemble Instrument Company	Computer-controlled pipetting stations.
Kyushu Matsushita Electric	Printers, typewriters and telephones.
Linx Printing Technologies	Continuous ink-jet printers and ancillary equipment.
London Business School	Degree and non-degree programmes.
Magnex Scientific	Advanced superconductive magnet systems.
Jim Marshall (Products)	Amplifiers, speakers and sound reinforcement systems.
Mayflower Glass	Glass models
MediSense Contract Manufacturing	Disposable biosensor used by diabetics.
Michael Ross Group	Knitwear.
More Fisher Brown	Legal services to the marine and insurance industries.
Motchman & Watkins (Theatre) – trading as Edwards and Edwards	Theatre ticket agency.
Neill Johnstone	Fashion clothing fabrics.
Newbridge Networks	Wide-area networking for communications.
Newman Martin and Buchan	Insurance services for the energy and marine industries.
Nissan Motor Manufacturing	Motor cars.
OIL	Vessels for offshore operations and marine support for oil terminals.
Orbit Valve	Valves and valve systems for the energy industry.
Oxford Magnet Technology	Superconducting magnet systems for whole body diagnostic imaging.
Pall Europe	High-technology filters.
Pandrol UK	Railway fastening components.
Partridge Holdings	Natural history films.
Pasminco Europe (Impalloy)	Protection systems against corrosion by sea water.
Penny & Giles Data Recorders	Flight data recorders.
Perfecseal	Packaging for sterile medical devices.
Peugeot Talbot Motor Company	Motor cars and parts.
Phase 3	High-performance sportswear and industrial clothing.
Piccadilly Shoes	Distribution of British-made footwear.
Poker Plastics	Bicycle mudguards.
Polymark Futurail	Overhead monorail systems for the laundry industry.
Remploy (Knitwear Division)	Clothing, primarily for the armed forces, police and security firms.
Renishaw Transducer Systems	Laser and other measurement systems.
Richard Coulbeck	Fish.
Ritrama (UK)	Speciality self-adhesive filmic materials.
Robinson & Hannon	Processing of scrap metal.
Rolls-Royce, Aerospace Group Civil Engine Business	Aero-engines.
Ross Breeders	Poultry breeding stock.
L A Rumbold	Galleys, passenger seats and lavatory compartments for aircraft.
SBJ Regis Low	Specialist insurance broking services.

Schumacher Filters	Filter elements.
Scotprime Seafoods	Fish and frozen seafood.
Silverts	Ladies' tailored clothes.
Specialix	Input/output controllers for computers.
Stakehill Engineering	Mouldings to be formed into pallet dunnage for transportation.
Starstream (trading as the Children's Channel)	Satellite television channel for children.
Technic Group	Retreaded tyres.
Technigraph Products	Equipment for processing litho plates for the graphic art industry.
Thermomax	Solar energy collectors for domestic hot water supply, swimming pool heating and industrial processes.
Thorn Secure Science	'Watermark' high-security magnetic tape for use on plastic cards.
Thornton Precision Forgings	Precision-made components for aerospace and orthopaedic industries.
Tibbett	Casual, formal and corporate clothing.
Timsons	Rotary printing processes for business forms and books.
Tiphook	Containers, road trailers and rail wagons for the shipping, distribution and transport industries.
University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate	Administration of school and 'English as a foreign language' examinations.
University of Manchester, Institute of Science and Technology	Courses, research services and technology transfer work.
Valpar Industrial	Drinks dispensing equipment.
Varn Products	Solvents and chemicals for the printing industry.
Vickers, Cosworth Engineering Division	High-performance motor car engines.
Vikoma International	Equipment for the control and recovery of marine and industrial oil pollution.
Warwick International	Biodegradable additives for detergents.
Williams Fairey Engineering	Girder bridges.
Xtrac	Gears and transmission systems for motor sport.
Yamazaki Machinery UK	Computerised machine tools.

Technological Achievement

Awards in this category are made for a 'significant advance, leading to increased efficiency, in the application of technology to a production or development process in British industry, or the production for sale of goods which incorporate new and advanced technological qualities'.

Technological Achievement Awards

APV Baker, Escalator Division	Public service elevators.
Acorn Computer Group	Microprocessor for portable computers.
Amerada Hess	Floating production facility for offshore oil and gas fields.
Amersham International, Pharmaceutical Division	'Ceretec', a human brain imaging agent.
Andergauge	Stabiliser for controlling inclination in oil wells.
Babcock Energy	Burner to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides during power generation.
British Broadcasting Corporation, Engineering Directorate	Nicam 728 broadcasting system.

British Gas, Research and Technology Division Midlands Research Station, jointly with Hotwork Development	Regenerative burner system for furnaces.
Cotswold Pig Development Company	Method allowing faster genetic improvement in pigs.
Crosfield Electronics	Computerised pagination system for the graphic arts industry.
Double R Controls	Magnetic tape testing system.
Filtronic Components	Multiplexer assisting identification of electronic signals for military purposes.
Glaxo Group Research	'Cefuroxime Axetil', an antibiotic.
IBM United Kingdom Laboratories, jointly with Oxford Computing Laboratory	Programming method based on the 'Z' notation elementary theory and logic.
ICI Pharmaceuticals	'Diprivan', an injectable general anaesthetic.
ICI Agrochemicals Research and Development Department Insecticide Project Team	Pyrethroid insecticides for agricultural use, which are 'environmentally friendly'.
In-Spec Manpower & Inspection Services, Electrical Projects Group	Motor fault diagnosis.
Lucas Nitrotec Services	Treatment to enhance the properties of low alloy steels.
Marconi Electronics, Stanmore Unit	Integrated microwave receiver for satellite television.
Merck Industrial Chemical Division, jointly with the Defence Research Agency Optical and Display Science Division of the Electronics Division	Chemical mixtures for improved liquid crystal displays.
Mercol Descaling	Procedure for refurbishing drinking-water mains.
Ometron	Laser interferometer for measuring vibration in industrial environments.
Oxford Lasers	Highest-powered visible laser commercially available.
Peboc	Pharmaceutical intermediate used in the production of a leading antibiotic.
Pilkington Communication Systems	Connection system for optical cables.
Portakabin	'Pullman' series of relocatable buildings.
Racal Radar Defence Systems	SADIE Associative Processor for identifying radar emission for defence purposes.
Rank Taylor Hobson	Products that measure surface texture and form.
Rover Group: Rover Power Train	'K-series' engine.
Shelbourne Reynolds Engineering, jointly with Silsoe Research Institute	Stripper head for combine harvesters.
SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals Research and Development	'Bactroban', an antibiotic.
TSL Group	Process to produce 'Vitreosil' high-purity quartz ingots.

Vector Fields	Computer software for designing electrical equipment.
Videologic	Method of combining video and graphics signals on the display screen of a personal computer, with synchronised audio.

Shorter Notes

ROAD SAFETY

The number of deaths on Great Britain's roads fell by 13 per cent in 1991. Figures on motorcycle casualties have also been published, showing a substantial fall in the number of motorcyclists killed over the period 1980-90.

According to provisional figures released on 26 March, there were 4,520 deaths in personal injury road accidents in Great Britain in 1991, a fall of 13 per cent compared with 1990. There were 51,500 serious injuries, a fall of 15 per cent, and 254,600 slight injuries, a fall of 8 per cent. The total number of casualties declined by 9 per cent to 310,700. Among car users, there were 2,018 deaths, a fall of 15 per cent. Pedestrian deaths fell by 12 per cent, to a total of 1,485. There were 239 pedal cyclist deaths.

A fact sheet on motorcyclist casualties in 1990 was published on 24 April.[1] This shows that 659 motorcyclists were killed in 1990, compared with a provisional figure of 548 in 1991. The statistics indicate a sharp decline in the number of motorcyclists killed since 1977, when some 1,200 died. Motorcyclists are one of the most vulnerable groups of road users; they account for only 2 per cent of all road traffic but some 17 per cent of those killed or seriously injured in road accidents. The highest fatality rate was among 16- to 19-year-olds.

Sources: Department of Transport news releases, 26.3.92 and 23.4.92.

[1] *Motorcycle Injury Road Accidents: Great Britain 1990.* Department of Transport accident fact sheet 7. Available from the Department of Transport, Room B648, Romney House, 43 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3PY.

BELFAST-DUBLIN RAILWAY

The Belfast to Dublin railway is to be upgraded in a £66·5 million programme announced in a joint statement by the British and Irish governments on 27 April.

The present line will be upgraded to permit speeds of 145 km/h (90 mph), which will shorten journeys by 15 to 20 minutes. New signalling equipment and rolling stock will be provided. The work is scheduled to start later in 1992 and is expected to take five years to complete. Expenditure on the Northern Ireland section will be about £24 million. The European Community has indicated that grant support of up to 75 per cent of the cost of the project will be provided.

The announcement was welcomed by Mr Robert Atkins, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office: 'I am delighted that this important project is to proceed and that work on both the northern and southern sections of the railway will start within the next few months. . . . this is a project which has the strong support of the Confederations of British and Irish Industries, particularly in view of its importance for expanding north-south trade on the island of Ireland.'

Source: Northern Ireland Office news release, 27.4.92.

Environmental, Social and Cultural Affairs

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

Britain has undertaken to stabilise its emissions of carbon dioxide at 1990 levels by the year 2000. The announcement was made during the final negotiating session for the climate change convention in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which meets in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June. Britain has also pledged up to $1 million to the non-governmental organisations' Global Forum, which also meets in Rio de Janeiro at the same time.

Background

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) meeting was called in December 1989 in response to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, *Our Common Future*, known as the Brundtland Report. Published in April 1987, the report said that problems of the environment and development were linked and that economic interdependence among nations was increasing. It called for economic growth based upon 'sustainable development' – meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Britain endorsed the call for sustainable development and welcomed the report's approach (see pp 155-6, 1987). Several preparatory conferences have taken place in the run-up to the Rio de Janeiro meeting.

The Government has outlined what it wants UNCED to achieve. Its principal aims are:

– signature of international conventions on climate change and biological diversity, and a statement on the world's forests;

– an agreement to strengthen the international institutions responsible for the environment, especially the United Nations Environment Programme; and

– more effective help for developing countries to take part in meeting the environmental challenge.

Britain's delegation to UNCED will be led by the Prime Minister, Mr John Major, who was the first world leader to announce his intention of attending.

Climate Change

The possibility of global climate change as a result of emissions of 'greenhouse gases' such as carbon dioxide (CO_2) has been recognised for some time. Britain played a leading role in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (see pp 222-3, 1990), which examined the problem. The report of its first working group, produced under British chairmanship, concluded that, if no action were taken, mean global temperatures would increase by about 0·3°C a decade during the next century, a greater rate than at any time during the last 10,000 years. This would cause a rise in sea levels of about 6 cm a decade.

The signature of a framework convention on climate change is one of Britain's aims for UNCED. As part of this, it is considered important to tackle the emissions of greenhouse gases. The Government had previously been willing to return CO_2 emission to 1990 levels

by 2005, provided other countries took similar action, a position announced in November 1990 by the then Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher (see pp 388-9, 1990). The Government's willingness to consider bringing forward the target stabilisation date was signalled on 2 March by the then Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Michael Heseltine, attending the negotiations towards a convention in New York. On 30 April Mr Major announced that Britain was now ready to stabilise emissions at 1990 levels by 2000, again provided other countries took similar action. The Government hoped that the convention would contain a commitment to prepare national programmes to meet this target and called on other industrialised countries to make a commitment to the same target in the New York negotiations.

Trade and Finance

Britain's commitment to the success of UNCED was set out by the Minister of State for the Environment and Countryside, Mr David Maclean. Speaking on 27 April, he said that the fourth preparatory conference had made progress and that there were encouraging signs for the Rio de Janeiro meeting. However, further work was required on some key areas, including financial resources, technology, forests and mechanisms for implementing commitments made in Rio de Janeiro.

Mr Maclean agreed that developing countries needed financial resources to advance their development, feed their people and attain the standards of living to which they aspired. Britain had already said that it was willing to commit new funding to help pay for the extra action on the global environment which it wanted to see from the UNCED meeting; however, more important than such concessionary flows was the operation of ordinary trade. The Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was therefore very important, as was the issue of international debt. Britain set great store by the United Nations' Global Environment Facility as the channel for financing the incremental costs of environmentally friendly development (see pp 424-5, 1990).

Non-governmental Organisations

The announcement of up to $1 million aid towards the non-governmental organisations' Global Forum was made by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Michael Howard, on 3 May. The Global Forum is organising a parallel conference to take place in Rio de Janeiro during the UNCED meeting, and had been close to collapse owing to lack of funds. This would have meant that no facilities would have been laid on for the thousands of non-governmental organisations and journalists expected to attend. Britain's contribution would be used to buy temporary building structures, computers and telecommunications equipment, which would be donated to Brazilian authorities and local community groups after the meeting.

Shorter Notes

PRISONER HEALTH CARE

A new Health Care Service for Prisoners in England and Wales emphasising the prevention of illness and the promotion of good health, as well as diagnosis and treatment, was launched on 29 April.

Speaking at a conference on the launch date, the Director of the Health Care Service, Dr Rosemary Wool, said that it would look at physical and mental health, treatment and cure, training and education, and prison conditions. Food, exercise and health education would all be emphasised as crucial to preventing illness. Caring involved 'treating the patient with courtesy and consideration and being aware of the patient's right to be treated with dignity and respect'.

Dr Wool said that a substantial programme of work was already under way. Pilot projects planned for later in 1992 included:

– a full specialist mental health care service for a number of prisons;

– a genito-urinary medical service for some London prisons;

– one or more general practitioner practices to provide all primary care at low-security prisons; and

– a community-based pharmacy service in selected prisons.

A health survey of remand prisoners is also being planned. In addition, a survey of convicted prisoners will take into account their views on health care. A review of services for mentally disordered offenders is being undertaken by the Department of Health and the Home Office. This review is expected to report in July 1992 and has already resulted in the provision of another 400 medium secure beds for psychiatric patients.

The Health Care Service for Prisoners resulted from an efficiency scrutiny of the Prison Medical Service which concluded that there should be greater emphasis on health promotion. In addition, a Health Advisory Committee has been set up to provide independent advice to ministers and the prison service on health care for prisoners.

Source: Prison Service news release, 29.4.92.

SCHOOL REPORTING STANDARDS

New regulations to improve the quality and consistency of reporting standards in English publicly maintained schools were announced by the Secretary of State for Education and Science, Mr John Patten, on 29 April.

The regulations require all maintained schools, from this school year, to send to parents a written annual report on their child's progress. The reports must contain:

– a commentary on the child's general progress;

– a commentary on his or her progress in all the subjects and activities forming part of the school curriculum;

– details of the results of any National Curriculum assessments and public examinations taken by the child;

– comparative information about the results of other pupils of the same age in the school;

– details of the pupil's attendance record, setting out any unauthorised absences; and

– information about the arrangements under which the report can be discussed with teachers at the school.

The regulations fulfil commitments given in the Parent's Charter published in September 1991 (see p 386, 1991).

Commenting on the regulations, Mr Patten said that all school reports sent out to parents at the end of the current school year would have to conform with these requirements. In the 1992-93 school year, reporting practice would be improved further by requiring schools to include in reports, where relevant, details about the comparative test and public examination results of pupils of the same age nationally.

Mr Patten added: 'Parents have the right to know. These regulations set new standards for the quality and consistency of reporting practice in maintained schools. I am determined to ensure that, every year, parents receive more and better information about the progress of their children than ever before.'

Source: Department of Education and Science news release, 29.4.92.

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Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU.

Central Statistical Office, Government Offices, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ.

HM Customs and Excise, New King's Beam House, 22 Upper Ground, London SE1 9PJ.

Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB.

Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

Department of Employment, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NF.

Department of the Environment, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB.

Foreign & Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH.

Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS.

Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT.

Board of Inland Revenue, Somerset House, London WC2R 1LB.

Office of the Minister for the Civil Service, Government Offices, Horse Guards Road, London SW1P 3AL.

Department of National Heritage, Government Offices, Horse Guards Road, London SW1P 3AL.

Northern Ireland Information Service, Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 3ST.

Overseas Development Administration, 94 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5JL.

Scottish Information Office, New St Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3TD.

Department of Social Security, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS.

Department of Trade and Industry, Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6RB.

Department of Transport, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB.

HM Treasury, Parliament Street, London SW1P 3AG.

Welsh Office, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NQ.

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